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Message Text

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44
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01

/033 W
---------- 104409
P 090951Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1764
INFO SECDEF WASHINGTONDC PRIORITY
CNO WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
NAVY CHIEF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS NAVY WASHINGTON DC
DEP USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMIDEASTFOR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA0026

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : OREP (FLOYD D. SPENCE)
SUBJECT : CODEL SPENCE: MEETINGS WITH GOB

1. JANUARY 8 CONGRESSMAN SPENCE OUT-CHARMED THE BAHRAINIS IN NOTABLY CORDIAL SERIES OF MEETINGS. SPENCE CALLED ON AMIR, PRIME MINISTER, SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY AND MINISTER INFORMATION AND LUNCHED AT RESIDENCE WITH MINISTER INFORMATION AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS.

2. THROUGHTOUT CALLS SPENCE MADE EFFECTIVE POINTS ON 1) SIGNIFICANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOB, 2) U.S. APPRECIATION FOR GOB HOSPITALITY TO MIDDLE EAST FORCE, 3) IMPORTANCE OF U.S. INITIATIVE IN SEEKING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND 4) SERIOUSNESS OF ECONOMIC (INCLUDING ENERGY) PROBLEMS WHICH U.S. AND REST OF WORLD FACING AND NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOLVING THEM.

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3. AMIR FOLLOWED FAMILIAR LINE ON BAHRAINI FRIENDSHIP FOR

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U.S. AND DISTRUST OF SOVIETS BUT WAS UNCOMMONLY FORCEFUL AND GRIN IN URGING INCREASED MOMENTUM IN U.S. INITIATIVE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION. HE FUSSED ABOUT SHAH'S RECENT AL SIYASSA INTERVIEW IN WHICH SHAH TRIED JUSTIFY U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN GULF AS BALANCE TO SOVIET PRESENCE, SAYING GOB WANTS US NAVY IN GULF REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SOVIETS PRESENT. PRIME MINISTER WAS UNUSUALLY JOCULAR, BUT BORE DOWN HARD ON IMPORTANCE BAHRAIN ATTACHED TO INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT FOR SAUDI ARABIA. BOTH DISCOURSED ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, "THAT KUWAITI DISEASE", WITH A SORT OF RESIGNED GALLOWS HUMOR. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH WAY ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION U.S. NAVY PRESENCE HAD GONE (MANAMA 0018). BOTH STRESSED GOB NEED FOR "HELP" FROM USG IN RETURN FOR HOSPITALITY TO U.S. NAVY.

4. COMMENT: GOB OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED WITH SPENCE VISIT, FIRST BY A MEMBER OF CONGRESS SINCE SENATOR FULBRIGHT WAS HERE IN 1973. WE WERE NOT AWARE,UT AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER REMEMBERED, THAT SPENCE HAD BEEN FIRST OFFICIAL AMERICAN TO VISIT BAHRAIN AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THIS FACT, PLUS SPENCE'S GRACE AND EFFECTIVENESS IN HIS CALLS, MADE VISIT A SIGNIFICANT PLUS IN ADVANCE US-BAHRAINI RELATIONS.
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